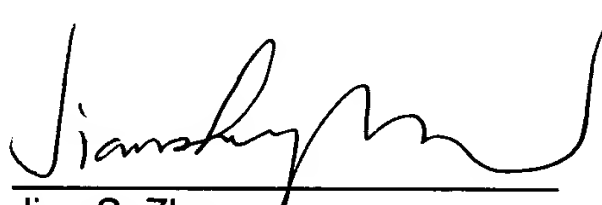


**REMARKS**

Claims 3-5 and 46 have been amended to correct the typos in claim 46 and non-compliance with 37 CFR 1.121 of the claim amendments (claims 3-5) made in the response filed August 11, 2003. After these amendments are entered, fourteen (14) claims (Claims 1-11, 46, 55 and 56) remain pending in this application through this Amendment. Applicants submit that the above amendments comply with 37 CFR 1.121.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. Please address all correspondence to Thomas Hoxie, Novartis Corporation, Corporate Intellectual Property, One Health Plaza, Bldg. 430, East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0134.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jian S. Zhou  
Reg. No. 41,422  
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Date: Dec. 5, 2003

Novartis Corporation  
Corporate Intellectual Property  
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